
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4021

State of Washington **59th Legislature** **2005 Regular Session**

By Representatives Williams, Moeller, Hasegawa, Kirby, Chase, Sells, Hunt, Simpson, Wood, Ormsby and Darneille

Read first time 03/25/2005. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, Confidence in our elected government officials depends
8 upon strong ethics laws and transparency in government activities; and

9 WHEREAS, The State of Washington is a leader in government ethics
10 and open government; and

11 WHEREAS, Recent actions of the Ethics Committee of the United
12 States House of Representatives have imperiled public trust in that
13 august body; and

14 WHEREAS, The majority party of the House of Representatives
15 recently implemented a rule change giving either of the two major
16 political parties veto power over beginning an ethics investigation of
17 a member of the House of Representatives, which will stifle enforcement
18 of ethics laws and rules;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the two
20 major political parties in the House of Representatives are not given

1 veto power over investigating their caucus members; urge that meetings
2 of the Ethics Committee of the House of Representatives be open to the
3 public; support the House of Representatives adopting a "Three Strikes
4 and You Are Out" ethics rule denying voting privileges for the
5 remainder of his or her term to any House member that has been
6 admonished by the Ethics Committee three times in the course of a year;
7 and urge that the House of Representatives adopt a rule disqualifying
8 members of the Ethics Committee from voting in matters involving the
9 conduct of any House member to whose legal defense fund they have
10 contributed, either personally or through a political action committee
11 under their control.

12 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
13 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
14 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
15 the House of Representatives from the State of Washington.

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